Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8958

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB

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CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CSAF WASHDC//AFINA//SSA CNO WASHDC//OP-614 DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII OSD/ISA/EUR WASHDC

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FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PARM, UR, US, UK, LE, PN, XJ, JA, SW

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - SEPT 21

- 1. HIGHLIGHTS:
- -- U.S. COVERAGE LIGHT AND NEGATIVE.
- -- IZVESTIYA LEAD COMMENTARY ON "SOCIALIST COMMUNITY"
 BEGINS WARSAW PACT PORTION WITH STATEMENT THAT "COUNTRIES
 OF SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, COORDINATING THEIR INTERNATIONAL
 EFFORTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE
 COMMITTEE OF STATE-PARTICIPANTS IN THE WARSAW PACT,
 ACHIEVE MORE AND MORE NEW SUCCESSES IN WORLD ARENA."
 THIS IS THIRD GRATUITOUS MENTION OF LONG-DORMANT PCC
 IN RECENT WEEKS.
- -- PRESS PLAY IN PRAVDA ON USTINOV VISIT TO POLAND AND ORDER OF GRUNWALD NOTEWORTHY FOR JOINT STATEMENT LINE THAT "MILITARY-POLITICAL ALLIANCE" OF WP WILL BE FORTIFIED AS LONG AS NATO PERSISTS AND WESTERN MILITARIST CIRCLES CONDUCT ARMS RACE, AND FOR GIEREK'S KIND WORDS ON "INTERNATIONALIST" SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY AND BREZHNEV PERSONALLY.
- -- CENTRAL PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S AFRICA TRIP IS LIGHT IN VOLUME, CRITICAL IN TONE, WITH MOST CRITICISM, HOWEVER, BEING ATTRIBUTED TO AFRICAN PRESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR LEADERS. ALONG THESE LINES, PRAVDA HAS TASS ROUNDUP, TITLED "PLOT AGAINST AFRICA," FROM VARIOUS AFRICAN CAPITALS. IZVESTIYA'S "PRESS-SERVICE" ACCOUNT IS SLIGHTLY MORE DIRECT, BUT STILL RELIES ON DILUTIVE FORMULA, E.E., "A WIRE SERVICES REPORT" "IN OPINION OF PRESS," ETC.

-- PRAVDA'S COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN BY N. KUDRYUMOV

LISTS IMPORTANT SUBJECTS FOR UNGA CONSIDERATION: DISARMAMENT, SPECIFICALLY, MDW, CTB, NUF; SOUTHERN AFRICA; MIDDLE EAST; KOREA; VIETNAM AND SEYCHELLES UN MEMBERSHIP.

- -- PRAVDA ALSO HASS TASS-LONDON STORY ON CANCELLA-TION OF CONFERENCE OF WORLD FEDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS BECAUSE OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT REFUSAL TO GIVE SOME DELEGATES VISAS. THIS NOT IN SPIRIT OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT, STORY SAYS.
- -- PRAVDA HAS SHORT TASS-STOCKHOLM ITEM ON SOCIAL DEMOCRAT LOSS IN SWEDISH ELECTIONS AND PALME'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO RESIGN, OFFERS NO COMMENTARY.
- -- LEBANESE EVENTS RECEIVE ROUTINE COVERAGE
 EXCEPT FOR "PRESS-SERVICE 'IZVESTIYA"' DESCRIPTION OF
 MANNER IN WHICH RIGHTIST-CHRISTIAN FORCES MIGHT
 PREVENT CONVOCATION OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD
 THUS HINDER SARKIS' ACCESSION TO OFFICE.
- -- IZVESTIYA SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN MEXICO CITY R. TUCHNIN WRITES AN ANTI-U.S. PIECE ON PANAMANAIN GOVERNMENT'S COMPLAINT TO U.S. CONCERNING INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
- -- PRAVDA CARRIES A TASS-TOKYO ITEM CITING THE
 JAPANESE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER AKAHATA CRITICIZING THE
 JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF "DEPENDENCE"IN ITS
 HANDLING OF THE "SOVIET PLANE" (UNNAMED). THE
 JAPANESE PERMISSION FOR U.S. AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TO
 TAKE PART IN THE INVESTIGATION WAS "ABNORMAL", SAID
 AKAHATA. THE TASS ITEM ALSO CITED A SOHIO STATEMENT
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THAT THIS PERMISSION UNDERMINES JAPANESE SOVEREIGNTY, IS NOT IN JAPAN'S INTEREST AND IS AN OBSTACLE TO GOOD JAPAN-SOVIET RELATIONS.

- 2. U.S. COVERAGE LIGHT AND, AS USUAL, NEGATIVE:
- -- BOTH PRAVDA AND KZ HAVE CARTOONS SHOWING U.S.
 MONEY POURING INTO ARMS OF ISRAELI MILITARY. KZ ALSO
 PRINTS TASS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON DENOUNCING INCREASED
 MILITARY EXPENDITURES FOR FY 1978 ANNOUNCED BY SECDEF
 RUMSFELD AT PRESS CONFERENCE. ALSO NOTED IS NYT
 SUGGESTION THAT ACTUAL AMOUNT MAY REACH \$130 BILLION.
 STRONG ISSUE TAKEN WITH RUMSFELD'S CITATION OF
 "SOVIET THREAT", SAID TO BE USED TO GET INCREASED
 MILITARY EXPENDITURES THROUGH CONGRESS.

PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA AND KZ GIVE IDENTICAL REPORTS
ON PAGE ONE OF HARRIMAN MEETING, AT HIS REQUEST, WITH
BREZHNEV, MEETING TOOK PLACE IN FRANK AND FRIENDLY
SPIRIT.
MATLOCK

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